

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING APRIL 20, 2021

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A special meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, April 20, 2021, via Zoom video conference in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 for alternative means for public entities to conduct public meetings.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Gina Piskin, President  
Edward Corona, Vice President  
Marion Blane  
Janet Goller  
Melissa Cmar-Grote  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci  
Tracey Miller

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel  
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Michael Harrington, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. to discuss the Nassau BOCES election/budget and the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD school budget.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Piskin, Board President at 7:09 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Piskin led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 8-0 the Board of Education removed the Public Comments sections from this meeting only and changed the order of business accordingly.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of this meeting is to vote on the Nassau BOCES budget and election of trustees. He said the Board of Education will also vote on the proposed 2021/2022 school year budget which has a 1.45% tax levy increase and is the lowest increase in ten years. He thanked Ms. Coni for keeping the tax levy so low and asked her to give her presentation.

A. **Presentation**

**Budget**

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business thanked the Board of Education, Mr. DeTommaso and the constituents for their support. She gave a presentation on the proposed 2021/2022 school budget of \$170,160,406 and explained that the 2021/2022 budget will have a 2.10% budget increase from the current school year. The tax levy increase of 1.45% is keeping under the tax cap, is the lowest tax levy increase in ten years and is lower than the average increase on Long Island as of the March data reported. The expenditure increase is comprised of increases in salaries and benefits, transportation contracts, technology improvements

including the 1:1 Chromebook Initiative plus renovations and improvements in the Cosmetology classroom at Calhoun High School. Our 2021/2022 proposed school budget maintains our special programs and includes some program enhancements.

Ms. Coni discussed two new Federal Grants, Coronavirus Relief & Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), which is for \$457,655 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for \$1,658,915. She explained that the district plans to use part of this funding to purchase additional Chromebooks. She also explained other specific requirements to receive these grants and that the district is awaiting further guidance on the application process and the use of funds.

Ms. Coni mentioned that the Public Budget Hearing will take place on May 5, 2021 and the budget vote will take place on May 18, 2021. She said that all of the budget information is available on our website and said that if anyone has questions to please contact her.

Mr. DeTommaso and Ms. Piskin thanked Ms. Coni her for all of her hard work.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments for this meeting.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved item V.A:

V. BELLMORE-MERRICK CHSD ADOPTION OF BUGET PROPOSITION

A. PROPOSITION NO. 1 – CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of one hundred sixty-nine million, six hundred forty-five thousand, nine hundred fifty-four dollars (\$169,645,954) to be raised through taxation in the several districts included with the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Corona, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved item VI.A:

VI. BOCES BUDGET AND ELECTION

A. 2021 – 2022 Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Budget

WHEREAS, the Board of Cooperative Education Services of Nassau County (hereinafter “Nassau BOCES”) has proposed and presented its Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2021/22 school year (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022);now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2021/22 school year in the amount of twenty-three million, two hundred forty-four thousand, eight hundred nine dollars (\$23,234,089) be, and hereby is, approved by this Board.

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On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved item VI.B:

B. Election of Trustees

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the election of the following candidates to the Board of Education for Nassau BOCES: Susan Bergtraum, Martin R. Kaye and Michael Weinick.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John DeTommaso  
Superintendent